INTRO OF MAE JEMISON THURSDAY, OCT. 8, 1992

Every space shuttle that lifts off from Florida carries more than just astronauts -- it carries the pride of America. And America has never had a better reason to feel proud than Dr. Mae Jemison.

Back when Mae was growing up on the South Side of Chicago, there were no female astronauts. There were no black astronauts. But it didn't matter.

Martin Luther King had a dream, and Mae Jemison had a dream, too. \

Her mother was a teacher, and helped her find books to read about space and science. She worked hard in school, because she knew that to become an astronaut, you had to be the best. \

As the Administrator of NASA, I could not be more proud of any group of individuals \ as I am of our astronauts. But there are many thousands of engineers, scientists,

and other professionals needed to keep America's space program moving forward. It's my hope that students will learn from the space program -- be inspired by it -- to get the education they need to reach their personal dream. \\

Maybe one of you will be among the first astronauts to go to Mars. And you'll tell everyone, "My dream started when I saw Mae Jemison fly in space \\ and I knew that no dream was too big -- no limit could be placed on what I could accomplish."

With more young people like Mae Jemison, NASA is going to keep reaching for the stars.

And now, it my pleasure to introduce a true American hero, Dr. Mae Jemison.

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